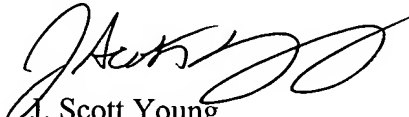


REMARKS

The preliminary amendments above have been made in order to simplify prosecution of the application by canceling claims that were examined in the parent applications. As such, Claims 5-7 remain. Please calculate Claim fees after entry of this amendment. The Preliminary Amendment has also added the cross-reference to the parent applications.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Scott Young
Registration No. 45,582

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
CLT#4637444v1

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV331630234US
Date of Deposit March 18, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, R.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Tamara Stevens